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Filed : December 26, 2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-21. (Cancelled).

22. (Currently amended) An isolated polypeptide having at least ~~80~~95% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:57;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:57; lacking its associated signal peptide; or

~~(c) amino acids 293-507 of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:57; or~~

- ~~(d)~~ (e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203948, and wherein said isolated polypeptide has the ability to induce mesangial cell proliferation.

23. (Currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 22 having at least ~~85~~96% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:57;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:57; lacking its associated signal peptide; or

~~(c) amino acids 293-507 of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:57; or~~

- ~~(d)~~ (e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203948, and wherein said isolated polypeptide has the ability to induce mesangial cell proliferation.

24. (Currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 22 having at least ~~90~~97% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:57;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:57; lacking its associated signal peptide; or

~~(c) amino acids 293-507 of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:57; or~~

- ~~(d)~~ (e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203948, and

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wherein said isolated polypeptide has the ability to induce mesangial cell proliferation.

25. (Currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 22 having at least ~~95~~98% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:57;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:57; lacking its associated signal peptide; or

~~(c) amino acids 293-507 of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:57; or~~

- ~~(d)~~ (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203948, and

wherein said isolated polypeptide has the ability to induce mesangial cell proliferation.

26. (Currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 22 having at least 99% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:57;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:57; lacking its associated signal peptide; or

~~(c) amino acids 293-507 of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:57; or~~

- ~~(d)~~ (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203948, and

wherein said isolated polypeptide has the ability to induce mesangial cell proliferation.

27. (Currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:57;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:57; lacking its associated signal peptide; or

~~(c) amino acids 293-507 of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:57; or~~

- ~~(d)~~ (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203948.

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28. (Previously presented) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 27 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:57.

29. (Previously presented) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 27 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide SEQ ID NO:57, lacking its associated signal peptide.

30-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously presented) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 27 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203948.

33. (Previously presented) A chimeric polypeptide comprising a polypeptide according to Claim 22 fused to a heterologous polypeptide.

34. (Previously presented) The chimeric polypeptide of Claim 33, wherein said heterologous polypeptide is a tag polypeptide or an Fc region of an immunoglobulin.